

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095550
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TO USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID
YEAR

1. PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY UN OFFICE AT GENEVA (PRESS
RELEASE HR/612) RECEIVED TODAY BY AIRPOUCH WAS FIRST
INFORMATION DEPT HAS RECEIVED ON SPECIAL MEETING MARKING
THE START OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR WHICH
WAS HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS
THREE WEEKS AGO ON MARCH 21, 1978. DEPT'S INTEREST IN
THIS MEETING HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY REPORT CONTAINED IN THE
PRESS RELEASE OF HARSHLY CRITICAL REMARKS MADE BY THEO VAN
BOVEN, DIRECTOR OF UN DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. VAN BOVEN
IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "IT IS CHEAP AND REPREHENSIBLE TO
UTTER VERBAL CONDEMNATIONS CONCERNING APARTHEID AND TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 095550

ALLOW AT THE SAME TIME PROFITABLE, ECONOMIC, NUCLEAR AND
OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH THE APARTHEID REGIME TO
CONTINUE."

2. VAN BOVEN'S REMARKS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AIMED DIRECTLY
AT POLICIES FOLLOWED BY U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS
WHICH OPPOSE THE COMPLETE CESSATION OF COMMERCIAL AND

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS A MEANS FOR
COMBATting THE EVIL OF APARTHEID. A TYPICAL REFLECTION OF

THIS POLICY WAS THE NEGATIVE VOTE CAST BY THE U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE AT THE 1977 SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS ON RESOLUTION 7 (XXXIII). THIS RESOLUTION
CARRIED THE TITLE, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT
OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND
OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST
REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE U.S. NEGATIVE VOTE WAS
DUE TO OUR INABILITY TO ACCEPT THE ASSERTION IN THAT
RESOLUTION THAT "THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL
AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTE
BLATANT ACTS OF COMPLICITY IN THE CRIME OF APARTHEID AND
ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE POLICY OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION." WE ALSO OPPOSED A FURTHER PROVISION IN
THE SAME RESOLUTION WHICH DENOUNCED AND CONDEMNED ECONOMIC
AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY CERTAIN STATES TO
SOUTH AFRICA, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH NATIONAL OR
MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES.

3. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE FULL TEXT OF
THE REMARKS MADE BY VAN BOVEN AT THE MARCH 21 SPECIAL
MEETING. ASSUMING VAN BOVEN'S REMARKS HAVE BEEN ACCURATE-
LY QUOTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY CLARIFICATION
VAN BOVEN MIGHT CARE TO MAKE AS TO THE SPECIFIC INSTANCES
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PAGE 03 STATE 095550

HE HAD IN MIND IN MAKING HIS CRITICISM.

4. PRESS RELEASE HR/612 NOTES THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING
WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF PERMANENT MISSIONS IN GENEVA.
WAS U.S. MISSION GENEVA REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING? CHRISTOPHER

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